

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An ink jet recording medium comprising a substrate and a plurality of ink absorption layers provided thereon, wherein an ~~upper~~ uppermost layer of the ink absorption layers contains inorganic pigment, a binder and thermoplastic particles having a glass transition point of 78 to 150°C, and the content by weight of the inorganic pigment being greater than that of the thermoplastic particles.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the medium is subjected to image recording employing pigment ink.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the medium is subjected to image recording and then subjected to heating treatment.

Appl. No. 10/057,652
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2006

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plural ink absorption layers except for the ~~upper~~ uppermost layer contains inorganic pigment.

Claim 5 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the inorganic pigment is silica.

Claim 6 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the inorganic pigment is alumina.

Claim 7 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the content ratio by weight of thermoplastic particles/inorganic pigment is from 45/55 to 10/90.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the solid content of the thermoplastic particles contained in the ~~upper~~ uppermost layer is from 0.5 to 15 g/m² of the medium.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the solid content of the ~~upper~~ uppermost layer is from 2 to 50 g/m² of the medium.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 4, wherein the inorganic pigment is silica.

Claim 12 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 4, wherein the inorganic pigment is alumina.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The ink jet recording medium of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plural ink absorption layers except for the ~~upper~~ uppermost layer contains inorganic pigment in an amount of not less than 50% by weight.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An ink jet recording medium comprising a substrate and provided thereon, ~~an upper~~ a layer containing inorganic pigment in an amount of 30 to 70% by weight, a binder and thermoplastic particles having a glass transition

point of 78 to 150°C, the ~~upper~~ layer being a single layer, wherein the content ratio by weight of inorganic pigment/thermoplastic particles is from 3/7 to less than 7/3.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The ink jet recording medium of claim 14, wherein the medium is subjected to image recording employing pigment ink.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The ink jet recording medium of claim 14, wherein the medium is subjected to image recording and then subjected to heating treatment.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An ink jet recording medium comprising a substrate and a plurality of ink absorption layers provided thereon, wherein an ~~upper~~ uppermost layer of the ink absorption layers contains inorganic pigment in an amount of 30 to 70% by weight, a binder and thermoplastic particles having a glass transition point of 78 to 150°C, and wherein the content ratio by weight of inorganic pigment/thermoplastic particles is from 3/7 to less than 7/3 by weight.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The ink jet recording medium of claim 17, wherein the medium is subjected to image recording employing pigment ink.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The ink jet recording medium of claim 17, wherein the medium is subjected to image recording and then subjected to heating treatment.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): A method of manufacturing the ink jet recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises the step of simultaneously coating the ~~upper~~ uppermost layer and the layer adjoining the ~~upper~~ uppermost layer on the substrate.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 20, wherein all of the plural ink absorption layers are simultaneously multi-layer coated.

Claims 23-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the substrate has a base paper laminated with polyethylene film on both sides.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the inorganic pigment is a gas phase method silica.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein an average primary particle size of the inorganic pigment is from 4 to 50 nm.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein an average particle size of the thermoplastic particles is from 0.1 to 5 μm .

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein a solid content of the thermoplastic particles is from 1 to 7 g/m².

Appl. No. 10/057,652
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2006

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein a residual monomer content in the thermoplastic particles is not more than 1% by weight.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the binder is a polyvinyl alcohol.